

Vessel: new festival models for charting communal relations

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Research Statement

Research Background:

30 words – In one sentence, what is the original contribution that this work makes to your field?

This work makes transdisciplinary contributions to the fields of intermedia performance, arts management, and crosscultural community development, by examining festival models through a socio-spatial mapping of Asian historic sites.

Research Contribution:

100 words – How does this work create new knowledge or use existing knowledge to generate new concepts, methodologies or understanding?

The project develops new approaches to site-specific intermedia performance, by combining live art, dance and sculptural installation, informed by the mapping of historic urban sites. The work builds on my longterm involvement with Melaka Festival, and new collaboration with Openspace; by recontextualising festival thematics of 'mapping Melaka', then resituating the process as a curatorial premise in the old town area of Nang Loeng, Bangkok. This serves to challenge the conventional separation of art work, arts management, and community engagement, to develop a crosscultural transdisciplinary strategy for the future implementation of a new festival in Nang Loeng.

Research Significance:

120 words – Explain significance of the new knowledge; the new and creative outcomes; what evidence do you have of its research significance ?

The project is important for how it uses a transdisciplinary intermedia methodology to evaluate a festival model that is unique for its regional and artist-run/industry contexts, but until now has been under-theorised, nor implemented to a larger extent. The presentation at Melaka Festival is a Special Event, based on my longstanding involvement since 2009, by invitation of the selection committee (Tony Yap, Creative Director; Andrew Ching, Festival Producer; Suen Kar Nee, Festival Manager; Takashi Takiguchi, Artist Liaison). Melaka Festival provides in-kind support for the project to the value of \$3000 in production and publicity. The Nang Loeng phase is a proof of concept curatorial event towards future opportunities for international partnering and academic writing around urban resilience and community engagement.